Vol. VIII. Numb. 33

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Letter from a Gentleman to the Obſervator, *ſhewing the Importance of the Iſland of* St. Chriſtophers, *and that we ſhould inſiſt upon having it wholly deliver'd up to us by the Treaty. Arguments to prove, that we ought alſo to inſiſt upon having* Nova Scotia *deliver'd to us.*

From Saturday, May 21. to Wednesday, May 25. 1709.

Country-m. SHall I read the Letter about *St. Chriſtophers* to you, Maſter?

Obſ. With all my Heart, *Roger.*

Country-m. 'Tis thus, Maſter:

SIR,

'THE Concern you ſhew for the Good of your 'Country, in deſiring an Enlargement of 'its Trade, and that the *French* King may reſtore 'all his unjuſt Acquirements; as alſo, that what-'ever may conduce to the Safety and Intereſt of 'her Majeſty's Subjects, either at Home or Abroad, 'may be inſiſted on at the Treaty, which ſeems to 'be ſetting a foot, emboldens me to put you in Mind 'of that part of the Iſland of *St. Chriſtophers* in *Ame-'rica*; which, in its own Nature, is certainly, for 'Extent, the moſt productive, and pleaſanteſt Spot 'in that Latitude, unhappy in nothing ſo much, 'as that it has been ſubject to the Will of two 'Princes, whoſe Intereſts are always different, and 'is the only Cauſe of the Misfortunes which the pre-'ſent Inhabitants, Subjects of *Great Britain*, groan 'under, by having a declar'd Enemy amongſt them, 'who knows all their Strength and Reſolutions; 'and tho' at preſent the Inhabitants that are on it, 'are all in the *Engliſh* Government and Intereſt, 'yet there being much the better half of that fine 'Iſland unſettl'd, by Reaſon of the Pretenſions 'which the *French* have always made to that Part, 'and its having been given to them at the Treaties, 'ſo none will venture to plant it, or ſettle it on ſo 'uncertain a Tenure. Nor can the Governor in 'chief there, grant any Leaſe on the ſaid *French* 'Part, for more than two Years and half certain, 'as being forbid it. But ſeeing we are at preſent 'Maſters of it, and that by Conqueſt at the firſt 'breaking out of the War, I think it ought to be 'recommended as a ſpecial Article for the Nego-'ciation. There are at leaſt 100000 Acres of the 'beſt, I'm ſure I may ſay the beſt Land in *Ame-'rica*, that is call'd the *French* Part of *St. Chriſto-'phers*, now unemploy'd, and is much the better 'for its having lain ſo long fallow, tho' were it no 'better than the Land in general of that Iſland, it 'has always been accounted, at an Averidge, able 'to produce more Sugar with twenty Negroes La-'bour, than any Sugar-Iſland in her Majeſty's Do-'minions can do with forty; for the Land ſtands 'in no need of Dung or Soil to enrich it, whilſt 'moſt of the other Iſlands are worn out, and have 'their Product from the very Life-Blood of their 'Slaves. Then for Health, if that is to have any 'Value ſet upon it, tho' it is accounted the Happi-'neſs of thoſe who live in unhealthy Climes, that 'ſo few are able to live, the Iſland of *St. Chriſto-'phers* will be allow'd much the healthieſt Spot in 'the *Charibees*, and wants no Encouragement for 'its being the beſt ſettl'd of any there, but the 'Misfortune of living always in Fear of their 'Neighbours on the ſame Spot, who, if they have 'the firſt Intelligence of War, are ſure to plunder, 'burn, and deſtroy the contrary Government. 'This Iſland, if wholly in the *Britiſh* Intereſt, and 'ſettl'd under good Regulations, I mean as to the 'making out Grants ſuitable to the Ability of Per-'ſons who were to ſettle it, not allowing too great 'a Number of Acres to any one Perſon, might 'afford a handſome Maintenance for great Num-'bers of Families, and become more uſeful to the 'State for its Number of Acres, than any Iſland 'in the *Weſt Indies*, except *Jamaica*, which has its 'Advantage from its Situation among the *Spa-'niards.*

'The Premiſes conſider'd, will, I hope, furniſh 'you with Matter ſufficient for your Genius to im-'prove to the Purpoſe it is deſign'd for. I have 'in my Tour touch'd on this Iſland, and know, 'that what I relate, is Fact, not only as it is the 'general Story of the Inhabitants there, but even 'all their Neighbours are forc'd to confeſs it, as 'well *Dutch* as *Brandenburghers*, many of whom, 'upon the Certainty of its entire Dependance on 'one ſingle Prince or State, would ſoon leave their 'St. Thomas, *Euſtatia*, *Suba*, and *Curacao*, and plant 'themſelves at *St. Kitts.* I affirm to you, I have 'not one Foot of Land on that Iſland, or any In-'tereſt in the Requeſt, but as I think it may come 'up to ſomewhat of the good Deſign you have 'in Hand.

Your moſt affectionate humble Servant,

N. E.

Pray give me your Opinion of it, Maſter.

Obſ. I take it to be of that Importance, *Roger*, that it ſhall go to the Preſs as it is, and hope it will be conſider'd among other Things we have to demand of the *French* at the Treaty. I know no-thing elſe we have to demand of them in thoſe Parts of the World, to which we have not a pre-vious undoubted Title; and our Claim to this can ſcarce be diſputed even that Way, if what *Ribe*, one of their own Geographers, in his Book printed at *Paris* lately, ſays, be true, that when M *Deſ-nambue* made the firſt Diſcovery of that Place, he found ſeveral *Engliſh* upon it, as well as *French*, eſpecially ſince Sir *Thomas Warner* took Poſſeſſion in the Name of the Government of *England*, as ſoon at leaſt as he did in the Name of that of *France*: but were there nothing in that, ſince we are in Poſſeſſion of it by Conqueſt, 'tis but reaſona-ble we ſhould keep it; and I am ſure it will be far from making us a Compenſation for the Ex-pence they have put us to by this unjuſt War.

Country-m. Pray Maſter, don't forget *Nova Scotia*; I want to have your Opinion about that too, in Anſwer to the Letter the Gentleman ſent you for-merly.

Obſ. I am willing to oblige that Gentleman, *Roger*, or any other, in what may be ſerviceable to the Publick, and therefore tell you my Opinion very freely. I do think our Claim to that call'd *Accadia*, or, *Nova Scotia*, to be better founded than merely on King *James* the Ift's Patent to Sir *William Alexander*, one of the then *Scots* Secretaries of State, and afterwards Earl of *Stirling* in *Scotland*; for our firſt *Virginia* Company always took to be their own, what ſhould be diſcover'd *Northward*, and was not planted by any other *European* Nation. Accord-ingly the *Engliſh* always took that call'd *Nova Scotia*, to be part of *North Virginia*. *Sebaſtian Cabot*, who was ſent into thoſe parts of the World, by our *Henry* the VIIth, on purpoſe to make Diſcoveries, having been there long before the *Britons*, who are ſaid to have diſcover'd it in the Reign of *Lewis*

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the XIIth, or before *Francis* the Ist, ſent *Verazzan* to take Poſſeſſion of *North Canada* in his Name; which, by the uſual Way of adjudging Right to the *Weſt Indies*, certainly gives us the beſt Title to it. But we have no Occaſion to diſpute King *James*'s Patent to Sir *William Alexander*; for whatever Right he or any other of the *Scots* had to it, is now devolv'd to the United Nation; and ſince, as I hinted before, my Lord *Bellomont*, in one of his Speeches to the Aſſembly in *New England*, mention'd the Treachery of our Courts, in ſelling it to the *French*, I am not afraid to ſay again, that it lays the greater Obligation upon the preſent Government, to recover it; and we have no Reaſon to doubt her Majeſty's gracious Concurrence in every Thing that's juſt and honourable, when the Matter is fairly repreſented to her in Council. Therefore it's my Opinion, *Roger*, that all Perſons concern'd in thoſe Things, ſhould make Application that Way. We have a Lord Preſident of the Council, whoſe Zeal for the Good of his Country, is as unqueſtionable as his Knowledge of its Intereſt, and his Lordſhip's Application was ſo well known to the whole Kingdom, by his indefatigable Diligence when, Lord Chancellor, that no Man has Reaſon to doubt his hearing them with Patience. Therefore, *Roger*, I think our Planters, Merchants, and others, have the faireſt Opportunity of having Juſtice done them in every Thing, that ever they could have expected, if they take proper Meaſures; and ſince the Lords Commiſſioners of Trade have ſent to our Merchants for their Advice in what may be fit to be inſiſted on at a Treaty of Commerce, no better Proof can be given of the Government's Readineſs to concur in every Thing that may be for the Advantage of the Nation at the enſuing Treaty.

Country-m. I am very well ſatisfy'd of that, Maſter. But pray go on with *Nova Scotia*.

Obſ. At the Treaty of *Breda*, in 1667, our Court was then ſo much *Frenchify'd*, that they abandon'd it to the *French*, *Roger*; which I take to be ſo far from an Argument, to let them ſtill enjoy it, that I think it obliges us rather to inſiſt upon the Reſtoration of it; and I am ſure 'tis our Intereſt, with reſpect to our other Plantations of *New England*, &c. Therefore I hope our Expedition into thoſe Parts, will be puſh'd on with Vigour, except the *French* make it needleſs, by complying with our Demands before-hand. But more of this in our Next, *Roger*.

Advertiſements.

O rare Periwigs!

COME, Brother, let's make a fine Thing
For every Son of Adam;
Let's buy the ſmooth Hair of Women,
(That part with their Glory (a)
To purchaſe ſome Rigging)
And the courſe Hair of a Beaſt,
Ei her Horſe, Mare, or Goat.
Let's dr w 'em, and mix 'em, and curle 'em;
Let's boil 'em, and dry 'em, and bake 'em;
Let's weave 'em, and ſew 'em
Unto a ſilk Cowl and a Ribbond;
And ſay, 'twill make an old Man look young,
A young Man look grave;
'Twill make a Man handſome and brave
In a Lady's Eye.
He may ſtand with his Hat in his Hand,
Or under his Arm, like a Monſieur.
What would a Man more,
Than to imitate thoſe
That aim'd to be Lords of the World?
Let's make 'em pay well for this Medly,
And buy us Eſtates
With the Sins of all that dare venter
To pray or to preach
With Heads that are cover'd,
Tho' not with black Hats;
No Matter for that,
'Tis contrary to the Command. (b)

(a) But if a Woman have long Hair, it is a Glory to her. 1 Cor. 11. 15.

(b) Every Man praying or propheſying, having his Head cover'd, diſhonoureth his Head. For a Man indeed ought not to cover his Head, forasmuch as he is the Image and Glory of God. 1 Co. 11. 4, 7.

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